GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3803
ANSWERED ON:16.05.2006
IMPORT OF MEAT
Paraste Shri Dalpat Singh

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of meat imported during each of the last three years and the current year, country-wise;

(b) whether according to an endocrinologist various types of medicines and vaccines are used to increase the weight of animals abroad;

(c) whether the consumption of such meat leads to heart attacks and diseases;

(d) whether the Government has decided to impose ban on meat import;

(e) whether the Government has received requests/suggestions from various sections of the society in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a): The quantum of meat imported is given as under:

Quantity in Tonnes

2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006(Apr-Sep)
10.49	5.65	113.89	19.12

The country-wise details of the meat imported by India is given in the publication 'Monthly Statistics of Foreign Trade of India; Volume-II (Imports) Annual Number' published by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, which is available in the library of the Parliament.

b) Oestrogen and Bovine Somatotropin hormones are generally used to increase the weight of animals.

(c) There is no existing evidence to show that use of hormones and vaccines in cattle may be harmful. Till now the studies have found that no appreciable increase in risk for its human consumption.

(d) The ban has been imposed on the import of poultry meat and pork from Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) positive countries.

(e) & (f): No specific request/suggestions to this effect has been received.